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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Akira Yoshida Examiner: Huynh, Ba
Serial No. 09/040,539 Group Art Unit: 2173
Filed: 03/17/98 Docket No. 12780-1009
Title: Window Display Device and Method, and Recording Medium Recording a Window Display Control Program

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this date: May 13, 2002.

Margo Maddux
Margo Maddux

REPLY BRIEF

BOX: Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The Appellant responds to the Examiner's Answer mailed March 12, 2002.

INTRODUCTION

The Examiner states in paragraph 3 of his Answer that the statement of the status of the claims contained in the Brief is incorrect. The Appellant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. The statement of the status of the claims was in fact correct as can be seen in the communications from the Examiner mailed March 23, 2001 and June 8, 2001.

The Examiner further states in paragraph 6 of his Answer that the statement of the issues in the Brief is incorrect. The Appellant respectfully disagrees, and contends that the statements made in the Brief, at the time the Brief was written, were in fact correct.

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Since the filing of the Appellant's Brief, the Examiner has withdrawn several rejections. As the Examiner states in his Answer, the only issue remaining in this appeal is whether claims 1-7 and 9 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over US patent 5,930,809 to Middlebrook in view of US Patent 6,054,990 to Tran.

APPELLANT'S REBUTTAL

The Examiner states that because Middlebrook's position icon 48 can be used to select an area of text 32 to be displayed on a main screen, it is functionally equivalent to the selection frame of the Appellant's invention. In light of this reasoning, the Examiner contends, it would have been obvious to combine the position icon of Middlebrook with the selection frame of Tran to achieve the present invention. Figure 2 of Middlebrook is shown below for convenience.

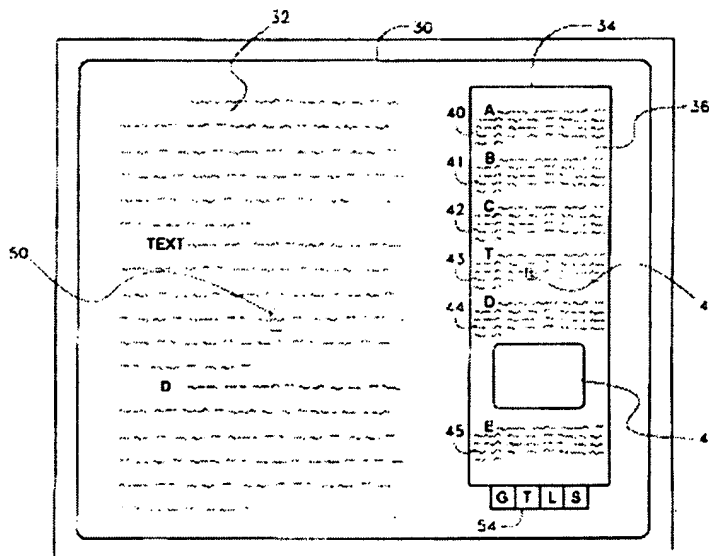


Figure 1 (Middlebrook)

Middlebrook's selection icon does identify, on a large area of text, which smaller part of the large area of text is currently displayed in magnification elsewhere on a computer screen. However, the indicating frame of the present invention **has additional functionality that is not provided** by Middlebrook's selection icon. As claimed in claim 1, the display indicating frame is positioned on first a sub-screen and can be moved into a second sub-screen by dragging it into

the second sub-screen with a pointing device. This functionality of the display indicating frame, to select areas of text on multiple sub-screens, is **not found in** Middlebrook's selection icon.

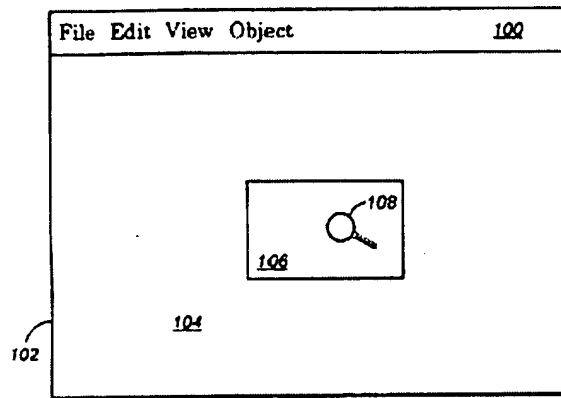


FIG. 2A

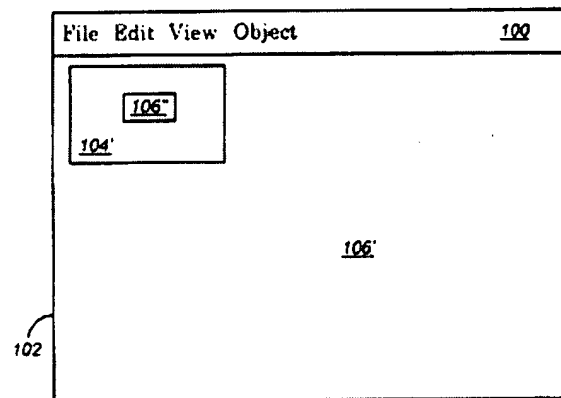


FIG. 2B

Figure 2 (Tran)

The Examiner states that Tran teaches the implementation of an indicating frame 106'' for selecting an area to be displayed in the enlarged view (FIG. 2B). The selection frame of Tran is a magnifier; it may be moved around a drawing and re-sized to select areas to be redisplayed in magnified form. Again, there is no teaching in the Tran reference to move this selection frame to another page or another area of text. **The rejected claims specifically recite the additional functionality of the display indicating frame to be dragged from a first sub-screen to a second sub-screen with a pointing device.** This functionality is not disclosed in either reference.

The Examiner states, however, that the feature of dragging the indicating frame from subscreen to another subscreen is in fact taught by Middlebrook, as is shown by map 300 in FIG. 7. The Examiner states that map 300 comprises a plurality of subscreens, each representing a paragraph or page.

The Examiner is respectfully incorrect, however, in stating that map 300 comprises a plurality of sub-screens. Map box 300 simply shows the mapped text in a different view,

making more obvious and instantly noticeable (using highlighting or lines), the existing author-defined section structure of the text (col. 9, lines 58-62).

The Appellant submits that the movement of indicating frame from one area of map 36 to another is not functionally the same as dragging from one sub-screen to another, as is claimed by the present invention. Middlebrook's map box 36 is a **single** screen which maps the entire body of text of a document. The present invention claims the use of **more than one sub-screen** to display adjacent sections of a document. The present invention also claims dragging the indicating frame from one sub-screen to another sub-screen to navigate the document. There is no teaching or suggestion for dragging the indicating frame from one screen to another sub-screen in Middlebrook. The Examiner's suggestion that moving an indicating frame **within the same screen** from one area of a typographic map to another area within the map is the same as dragging the indicating frame **from one screen to a separate screen** is clearly not proper. These multiple features which are claimed are not remotely taught, suggested, or disclosed in either or both of the cited references.

Furthermore, the present invention claims (as in claims 2, 3, 5 and 7) that after dragging the indicating frame from one sub-screen to another sub-screen, the sub-screen of the page displayed on the main screen comes to a predetermined position. For example, each of the sub-screens scroll such that the sub-screen of the page displayed on the main screen comes to substantially the central position of the sub-screen column. This is illustrated in FIG. 3 of the application as shown below. FIG. 3A shows first sub-screen 51 and the indicating frame 60 located within it. Main screen 50 displays the portion of document in enlarged form, shown by the indicating frame. In the figure, each sub-screen represents one page of the document, as is labeled underneath each sub-screen.

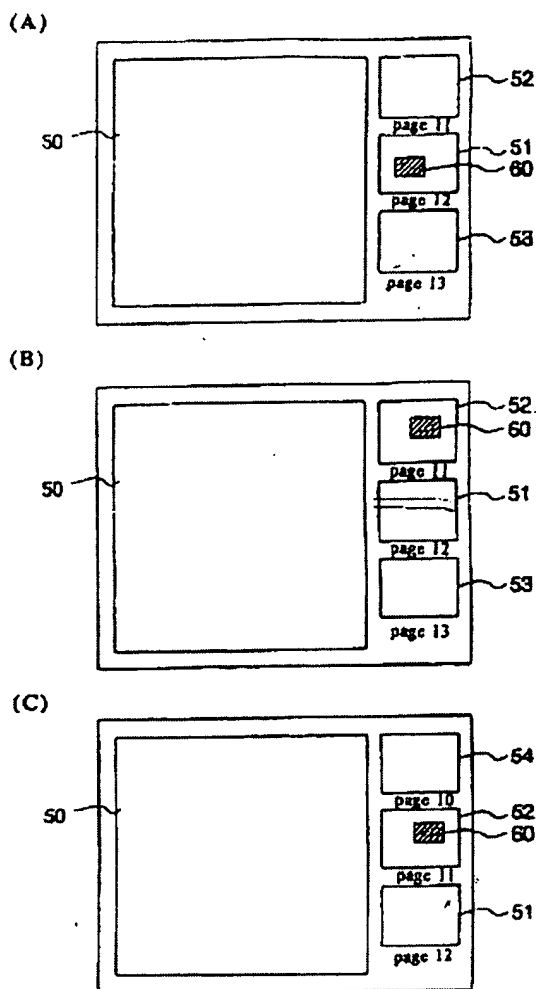


Figure 3 (Present Invention)

FIG. 3B shows indicating frame 60 after it has been dragged from first sub-screen 51 to second sub-screen 52. After dragging the indicating frame from first sub-screen 51 to second sub-screen 52, the main screen 50 changes to display text on page 11 as indicated by the position of the indicating frame. FIG. 3C shows how the sub-screens scroll to new positions such that sub-screen 52 corresponding to page 11 is now centered. Sub-screen 51, corresponding to page 12, where the indicating frame was moved from, is moved towards the bottom of the page.

This additional feature of scrolling the individual sub-screens, such that the sub-screen corresponding to the text displayed in the main screen is in a predetermined position (for instance, centered, as shown in FIG. 3), is additionally a feature that is claimed in the claims. It is not found in the prior art.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner appears clearly to have inadvertently mistaken the understanding of the terms of the claims submitted, and to have misconstrued how the prior art should be applied relative to the claims. The Appellant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection and requests the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences to allow pending claims 1-7 and 9. The pending claims **claim elements that are not disclosed** in any of the cited references.

A Request for Oral Hearing before the Board of Patent Appeals accompanies this Reply Brief.

Respectfully submitted,

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